



SUNDERLAND'S OWN ANARCHIST PAPER

NO.1



T
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A
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O
N

INSIDE: RIOTS
CRIME & PUNISHMENT
NEWS

FREE
BUT
CONTRIBUTIONS
WELCOME

PAPER FOR LUMPEN PROLETARIAN SOCIALISM!

THE PAPER

November 1981 see's the first issue of Sunderlands very own anarchist paper. Not before time you say, we certainly do.

"TREASON" is produced by members of Tyne & Wear Anarchist Group living in Sunderland. "TREASON" aims to be a broad-based anarchist paper, appearing regularly, subject to availability of copy and capital (vile word). We will be producing a wide range of anarchist and related ideas and theory, plus local, national and international news. Not forgetting, wit, satire and humour.

"TREASON" is not a blue-print for revolution, or in fact is any anarchist paper. We are simply offering an alternative lifestyle to the present authoritarian system which runs our lives. We believe that an anarchist society is the salvation of the human race. A free, equal, classless and self-managed society. The means to achieve this is in our own hands. Fight back and take control of your own lives.

Certain articles from time to time will not represent the views of the whole group or in fact any one individual.

DEDICATION

As "TREASON" No.1 dwells quite extensively on the subject of so-called crime and the states answer to it, we'd like to dedicate the first issue to CARL HARP. Carl was until recently an anarchist and a prisoner. Carl has been murdered by the American authorities. He was found hanging in his cell with his wrists slashed. A cheap attempt to make it look like suicide. They even forged a suicide note, denounced as a fake by his wife. Carl had earlier told friends that he'd uncovered a plot against his life. Another casualty of American style 'freedom'.
THE REVOLUTIONARY MAY BE DEAD, BUT THE REVOLUTION LIVES ON.

There is a reason for any mistakes you may (will) find in this paper ie spelling, punctuation bad typing etc. We hope to publish something for everyone, and theres always someone looking for mistakes.

THE GROUP

Tyne & Wear Anarchist Group is a small federation of groups and individuals from the said area. TWAG is also part of the larger North East Anarchist Federation which covers an area stretching from north Yorkshire to the Scottish border, incorporating several anarchist and syndicalist groupings.

TWAG was formed eight months ago, although there had been isolated activity in the area prior to the new groups formation. In fact there has been anarchist activity in the region for the past ten years.

The launching of "Treason" and a similar paper in Newcastle are the first major projects we have tackled. Although we have produced numerous leaflets and attended several demo's in the region. A successful public meeting on anarcho-syndicalism was recently held in a Newcastle pub.

The group recieved its first press publicity at the beggining of July when the clown prince of parasites, Charlie boy, visited Tyneside. Six of us got arrested in an unsuccessful attempt to disrupt his visit. We were held in the cells until HRH had fled the area.



WE ARE YOUR
DISSIDENTS!

RIOTS



During the summer a wave of riots swept the country (missing Sunderland & *). As usual the media has provided us with a simplified version of the events, just in case we think to deeply about the issues involved. On one side our brave and overworked bobbies, fighting against violent, petrol-bomb throwing thugs and looters. All of course, blacks and white criminals (not forgetting the anarchists). If we do form impressions its preferably in favour with the forces of "law and order".

Any reasonably intelligent person can see its not as simple as that. These riots dont just happen every now and then simply to allow people to let off steam, mid summer madness and the like. There are certain contributory factors, many people relise this. After Toxteth, MP's and others spoke of unemployment, bad housing and bad community/police relations. Obviously these factors are significant, but they are not the root cause. When crowds of people, most of whom are normally 'decent respectable citizens', go out on the streets, and take part in a massive demonstration of force, it is not only because they have no jobs etc, neither is it a racial issue (Southall the exception) It just happens that a black people live in these area's. St Paul's, Brixton, Toxteth and Mosside saw rioting and looting by people of all ages and races. Remember the old white-man in a wheelchair, looting a supermarket in St Pauls, Bristol?

The riots occur because people have a justified resentment against the way THEIR lives are run. Also against the "system". The government does nothing to aliviate the pressures, strain and problems of living in inner city ghetto's. This coupled with police harrassment and general victimisation of individuals doesn't help matters. It only takes a minor incident to spark off a riot. This releases all the frustrations and anger built up inside people. The police obviously bear the brunt for they represent authority & the establishment in general. After all they are the TOOL of the state anyway.

When the smoke has cleared and the debris swept away, the state severely punish a few people to make an example. AN ENQUIRY may be set up to discover the causes of the riots. What a laugh, as if the people didn't know why they did it, and as if the state is going to do anything about it anyway.

Riots should be seen as showing that there is anger and resentment, and anti-establishment feeling in everyone, many of whom are normally unable to express or understand it. This doesn't just apply to the poor & underprivileged; in Zurich, Switzerland, middle class youth has been rioting as an expression of their hatred of authority and the SYSTEM.



Riots also demonstrate what ordinary can do when their rage is united. Its not enough just to beat up a few cops. Its important to make sure the peoples righteous anger, your anger, is directed at the real enemy. The STATE and its repressive system.

We can't tell you to riot and we don't wat to lead you. Your future is in your own hands. FIGHT BACK AND TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR OWN LIVES.



RIOT - CONT ★

* An incident on July 10th was the nearest Sunderland got to having a riot. A large group of weekend revellers gathered outside the "Painted Waggon", chants of Toxteth and Brixton were heard, as well as the football rallying chant of "we want a riot". A cop who intervened was badly beaten (served him right really). The officer was from the SPG. Maybe he took a thought to himself while lying on the pavement, of the number of drunks who meet a similar fate at the hands of the SPG themselves, every bloody weekend.

Anyway, for those of you building the barricades and sythoning petrol from next doors car in anticipation, hang about - this happens most weekends in the town centre. It has done for years. (it rarely goes as far as cops getting done though). There again, there is potential in this town, and indeed the whole area. Hell, lets face it, we've got enough to riot about, the north east has been shit on for years. When people of all ages come out of their pubs and clubs calling for a riot and building barricades, thats when thats when the police and the authorities will really start worrying. Think about. We mentioned earlier that the struggle was world wide, well, that includes Sunderland.

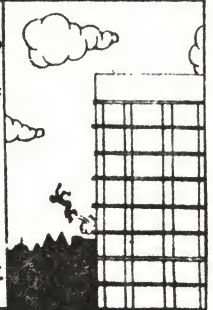
COMING
SOON....



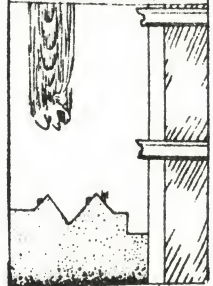
ARE YOU PREPARED?

YOUNG KIETH

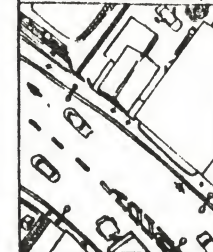
A FEW
WEEKS AGO
KIETH
JUMPED OFF
THE 27TH
STOREY
OF A 32
FLOOR
BLOCK IN
NEWCASTLE
....



AS HE PASSED THE 6TH



IT OCCURRED TO HIM
THAT THE WORLD WOULD
HARDLY NOTICE HIS PASSING



.... HE WAS RIGHT.



CRIME, PUNISHMENT & PRISONERS.



Have you ever thought about stealing ? Weighing up the social and moral implications etc.

What follows next is the court speech made by an Austrian anarchist and thief. Read on and make your own conclusions.

"Now you know who I am; a revolutionary who lives from theft. In addition I've set on fire a few villa's and resisted the forces of the state in order to keep my freedom. The story of my fight is now opened to your intelligence.. Because I give nobody the right to judge me, I will not ask for mercy. I do not beg anything from people I hate and despise. YOU are more powerful than I, you can do with me what you like. Send me to the punishment colonies or send me to the gallows, it means nothing to me. But before we depart let me tell you a last word.

You are standing on the side of the law and describe a man as a thief or a rogue, without asking if that human being could also be something else. Have you ever seen a man with a high income standing in front of you? I don't know any. But I am neither a man with a high income nor do I have any other dubious sources of income, but have only my hands and my brain to keep me alive. Is this a bad way in your eyes to live? Society gave me three ways to live: work, begging and theft.

I've nothing against working as such. I like to work. It makes the human-being. Because it wants to put it's energies to use. But I am not prepared to sweat blood and water in order to get a starvation wage. Neither do I want to be robbed of the wealth I have created. I also dislike to prostitute myself on the labour market. It violates my understanding of freedom. Begging means the lowering of my dignity. Every human-being has it's place on the table of the world. The right to live is not to be begged for. It is to be taken by oneself. THEFT IS THE JUSTIFIED RECOVERY IF PROPERTY. I've decided to rebel in place of going into the factory to enrich people like yourself. You would have given me a starvation wage and I would have ended up with a worn out body and an empty brain.

And I would then proudly proclaim that I was an honest worker and not a shameless bandit.

Thankyou for that favour. I prefer to be shameless but aware of my rights and not a machine in your system. Once realising this I shred all scruples and became a thief.. Your morals, which claim that respect of property is a good thing, I do not share. Consider yourselves lucky gentlemen that this prejudice is so deep rooted in peoples minds. This way you make the people your best policemen. They have become the guardians of your property and that counts more than all laws. But I warn you, all things have an end. All that has been acquired by trickery and violence can be destroyed by trickery and violence.

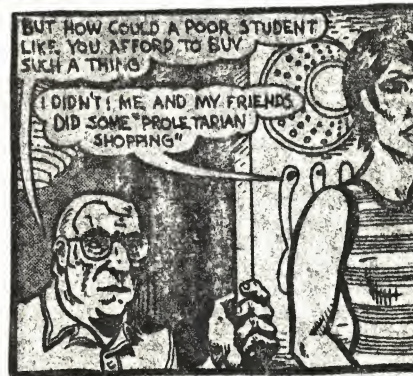
The people are in a permanent state of development. Don't be surprised when all the people become aware of their rights and realise the truth. Don't be surprised when they break open your houses to retrieve the wealth you have stolen from them. Is it not good to reap what has been sown? If they would think more seriously, they would do it now rather than feeding you. Themselves becoming poor and destitute in the process.



It will mean the prison, the punishment colony, or the guillotine. But why have scruples in the face of such a dogs life.

The miner who never see's the sun shining is exposed to gas explosions, the tiler who can break his neck if he loses his concentration, the sailor, who when leaving port never knows if he will see port again. A large number of workers daily catch deadly diseases, Or work till exhausted, or poison or kill themselves slaving for the master. The same goes for the army and the police who fight your enemies and get only a bare bone to eat.

Gentlemen, I see you stay calm. You look sceptically at the picture I have drawn. You tell your self, the people are scared, we govern them with repression. When they shout we put them in prison. When they rebel we send them to the punishment colony. When it comes to an uprising we get the guillotine ready. That is the whole misery gentlemen, belive me. Punishment is a means to calm down rebels. Repression is far from useful to act as a medicine, it is more to the worse. Force and violence can only reap hate and revenge. It is the circle of the devil. When you let heads fall and fill the prisons you sow the seeds of hate.



Do you belive you have achieved anything with it? Do you really belive that I did not realise that my way would lead me to the guillotine? But you can belive me that it does not stop me. What do you say now? I've become a thief out of principle and the right. Not out of avarice. I wanted my freedom, my independence and my human dignity. I did not want to make the boss happy. That meant for me to be a thief rather than a boss.

As I condemn all ways to get rich by trickery or violence from others is why I have attacked those which enrich themselves on the backs of the poor. I would like to live in a society where there is

no theft any longer. Theft is the means for me to rebel against the most unjust theft of all - PRIVATE PROPERTY.

This is why I stand in front of you now. I want to destroy your system.



There is theft because there is a scarcity on one side and plenty on the other. Because all belongs to a few. Our fight will be at an end when the people do all things together, when they share their joys and problems. Only then, when all belongs to the people.

As a revolutionary anarchist I've lived and fought!
ANARCHY LIVES!

(Alex Marius Jacob..1905)

What follows next is a leaflet written by the Gateshead section of TWAG.

They belong to the rock band "TOTAL CHAOS". The leaflet also deals with theft. It was distributed at a gig.

"Easy to say but really hard to do. If you're at school, don't and I must say it again, DON'T obey teachers and prefects mindlessly. Mindlessly is the key word. Evaluate situations for yourself, think who the law or rule or orders are advantageous to. For example, think why they ask you to wear uniforms? Could it be they want to depersonalise you - keep on thinking, I've got a mind, brain, and personality of my own. Just because someone is older than you or wears a shitty badge it does not mean that should tell you what to do. Don't join in the school games. This is a big con - to make you think in a competitive way. If you win and beat people you are glorified and rewarded in the form of medals and certificates.

This is artificial. You don't really want to run around a field to 'win' a piece of metal. It's all part of the system which makes some of us winners and most of us losers and all of us mindlessly satisfied. If you are on the dole - make sure the bastards behind the counter be-little you - if the queen can get millions off the state why the fuck should 'nt you be entitled to a measly £20 a week? - in fact, if we did away with the queen and her family of hypocritical parasites - people on the dole would get twice that amount. Remember when you sign on that's your money. You are entitled to it. This world is a shit place for a young working class kid on the dole and that's because of the people in power, therefore the world owes you a living so keep fucking asking for it. Don't obey crummy little laws - if you're genuinely hungry and you need something to eat go to a big super-market and take it because that is also yours. Will it make any difference to the fat London capitalist who owns 33 Tesco stores whether you steal a mince pie? If you are hungry and the fat capitalist isn't then that pie does 'nt belong to him it belongs to you. Keep on spray-painting - if you work you pay tax and your parents and some of you pay taxes. Therefore most of the buildings around you belong to you, so fucking cover them with as much graffiti as you want. Say fuck to church. Say fuck all authority. Say fuck to all exploiters. - Believe in yourself - adopt an anarchist stance. - it's your life NO-ONE ELSE'S so let's all be self-righteous.

Don't be taken in."

TOTAL
CHAOS



ANARCHY IS FREEDOM

capitalism. Crime is an integral part of this corrupt and decaying institution.

This uncaring and often barbaric system throws it's 'non-conformist', 'anti-social' and wayward citizens into prison as they apparently constitute a menace to society. Prison serves as the states carpet and the system it advocates the broom.

Once given the label of criminal we have it for life. Rapidly we become outcasts, our closest peers may even scorn us. This attitude stems directly from the states mouthpiece (the media). Continually it strives to create artificial divides between people, playing one off against the other. In reality, as far as prison goes, what's the difference between the man in the street and the man in prison? (or woman). One may be a brickie the other is simply an incarcerated brickie.

Prison is an evil, an evil we can do without. Prison serves no use whatsoever. It neither reforms nor rehabilitates. The whole dehumanising process has exactly the opposite effect. Prison in a nutshell must be abolished.

The authorities make great play of their crime and punishment, law and order. From the perspective it's a farce. A myth concocted by the state in an attempt to pacify and condition the masses. Giving a false sense of security

PRISON - AN ANARCHIST VIEW

Taking the previous to it's obvious conclusions, we must consider prison.

In this present society 99% of all crime is directly linked to the system that rules our lives. A system of exploitation, degradation and oppression. A system known as

and delaying further the agonies of capitalism and statism.

The only way to solve these so-called crimes, problems, call them what you like, is to dismantle the state. Destroying the capitalist system which creates them. Forging ahead, taking over the reins of our destiny. Striving towards the social revolution. The struggle must be fought in the workplace and community, on the streets and in the prisons. In fact everywhere authority raises it's ugly head. We must replace the present system with a sane alternative - an ANARCHIST SOCIETY.

KROPOTKIN

The following text was written by the anarchist philosopher Peter Kropotkin. He sums up prison and it's alternatives.

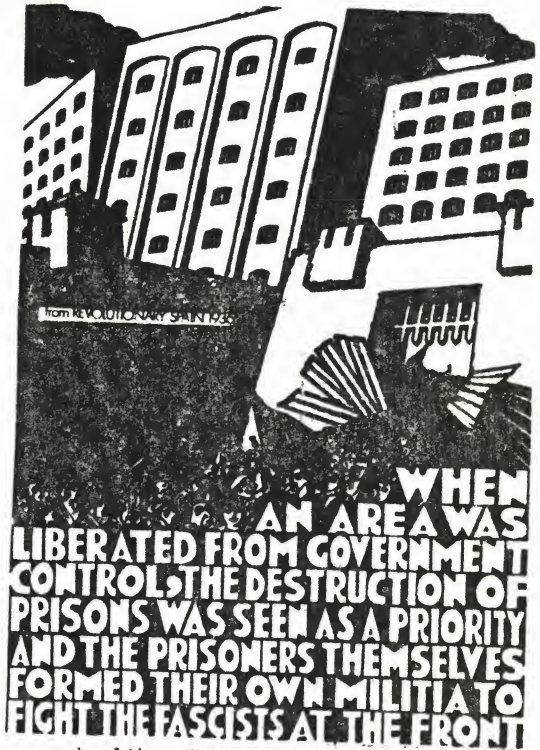
"The prison does not prevent anti-social acts from taking place. It increases there numbers. It does not improve those who enter its walls.



However it is reformed it will always remain a place of restraint, an artificial environment, like a monastery, which will make the prisoner less and less fit for life in the community. It does not achieve it's end. It degrades society. It must disappear. It is a survival of barbarism mixed with liberal philanthropy.



The first duty of the revolution will be to abolish prisons, those monuments of human hypocrisy and cowardice. Anti-social acts need not be feared in a society of equals, in the midst of a free people, all of whom have acquired



a healthy education and the habit of a healthy education and the habit of mutually aiding one another. The greater number of these acts will no longer have any *raison d'être*. The others will be nipped in the bud.

As for those individuals with evil tendencies, whom existing society will pass on to us after the revolution, it will be our task to prevent their exercising these tendencies. This is already accomplished quite efficiently by the solidarity of all the members of the community against such aggressors. If we do not succeed in all cases, the only practical corrective still will be fraternal treatment and moral support.

This is not utopia. It is already done by isolated individuals and it will become the general practice. And such means will be far more powerful to protect society than the existing system of punishment which is an ever fertile source of new crimes."

We have come a long way since Kropotkin wrote this, although the message remains crystal clear. The state may get stronger daily. But as militancy grows and the struggle escalates the state will crumble.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT - first published in AN PHOBLACHT (May 1978)

Having read several articles on solitary confinement and its effects, I feel I am compelled to write the following. Unlike most writings on the subject, it has not been written by a psychologist or any such person, who has never endured a long period in solitary.

Solitary to most people means being alone; to the prison governors it means isolation. They state that there are no after effects of long solitary. If this is the case then why is it used?

The prisoner who is isolated will sooner or later have to be returned to the main prison. If it has no effect on the prisoner the process is unnecessary, because he will be the same prisoner as when he went into solitary.

The truth of the matter is that most people who have endured long periods in isolation are scarred mentally for life; only the very strong willed suffer no after-effects.

The main purpose of solitary is to break the subject both mentally and bodily; to break the body is the easier of the two, from lack of food and proper exercise and the almost certain ill health. So to break the mind they must wear the body out.

First, as is said, 'a healthy body is a healthy mind', anxiety is one of the main weapons used to break the mind; create a state of anxiety and depression; worry and fear follow in pattern.

Most prisoners' main worry is for their family, and minor worries are exaggerated as the mind has little else to occupy it. This induces intense bouts of depression. I know of one prisoner (M.Brady) who after the Hull Riot was placed in solitary and for a month he did not know if his family were aware of his new prison; for this period he suffered severe anxiety.

At the end of last year ('77), an English prisoner 'Joey' slashed his wrists and was later found hanged in an isolation cell in the prison.

He had spent the past six months in solitary and had before him the prospect of another long spell. It is widely accepted in this prison that he was deeply depressed.

Most Irish political prisoners can double and treble the amount of solitary 'Joey' spent. (I shall leave that to you to think of the effects on the mind)

It is universally recognised that after about ten years under normal prison conditions, the mind and personality irreversibly deteriorates; prolonged solitary only accelerates this degenerative process.

Almost all segregation units are geared to the breaking of the mind. Most are plain white and very quiet so one loses sense of time and everything is done by routine, when you sleep, eat, sleep, eat and exercise and almost every spell outside your cell is a confrontation.

When you stop out they space themselves 'six handed' behind you, beside and in front, the same at exercise.

They never speak - not that we'd want to converse



with them - but by these actions they hope to make the prisoner paranoid (what's the one behind me doing?). Think that this is how you will survive for the next eight months, who knows?

This is enough to make even the strongest mind crumble. If you are thought to be existing, you are moved and isolated in another prison where the routine is new and you have to go through the process over again.

The high rate at which political prisoners are moved around the country is a sign 'in light of the above', of how well they have stood and are still standing up to it. It is impossible for me to go into as much detail as I would like to and I doubt it's possible to relate what happens to a person's mind in solitary. One would have to undergo it to know the feelings - so I hope you never know.

It is a battle that is fought every day by Irish political prisoners who have to now be the strongest -- and why shouldn't they be? The screws try to break your mind for their pay packet and you are resisting for your sanity.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank on behalf of all Irish political prisoners here in Gartree, every group and every single individual, who have fought and are still fighting for justice, and for all the work done for us; also the many prisoners who have helped and supported us in the past and, without whom articles such as this would be impossible.

They cannot isolate what they cannot see -- our spirits remain free.

Paul M.Hill

Paul Hill is an Irish republican and a prisoner of war. He was the first person held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. His sentence is for the rest of his natural life.

Paul Hill and his incarcerated comrades, including the recent hunger strikers have our support. Giving our support is not a contradiction of our anarchist ideals. As anarchists we believe that practically all crime is political (if you had 'nt already gathered that). We advocate that in a free society, an anarchist one, these so-called crimes would not have taken place. On the question of Irish politicals, we see an oppressed people fighting back. Continuing a struggle which has lasted for centuries. Their immediate enemy - our government, doesn't even give credit to their struggle by classing it political. They are regarded as gangsters or common 'criminals'. We support their struggle against criminalisation. We support the struggle of an oppressed people against a hostile state and an enemy army of occupation. We support all prisoners in their fight for better conditions and freedom. We support the fight for freedom of all oppressed and exploited people.

In as far as prisoners go, we hope that all prisoners follow the example and the courage shown by the Irish prisoners of war.

Remember, not one of us can be free in mind or body while one person is imprisoned. Our freedom is theirs and their freedom is ours.

Is this too much to ask for?

1. The right of prisoners to wear their own clothes instead of prison uniform.
2. The right of free association with other prisoners.
3. The right to refuse to do prison work.
4. The right to organise educational & recreational activities and to send and receive a weekly letter; a weekly parcel and a visit.
5. Restoration of full remission of sentence.



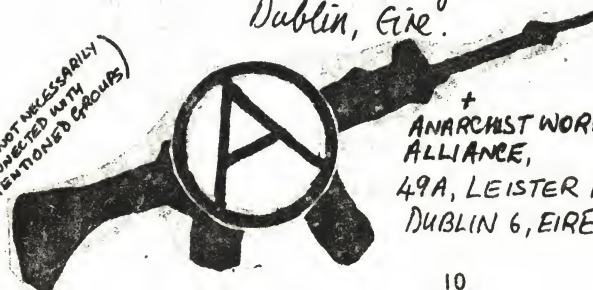
Anarchism in Ireland

'Outta Control' is not only the cheapest paper in Ireland but one of the best as well. For only 5p you get the alternative news from Belfast along with a generous helping of anarchism. A years subscription will only set you back £2.50 for seventeen issues. From the Belfast Anarchist Collective, 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast 1.

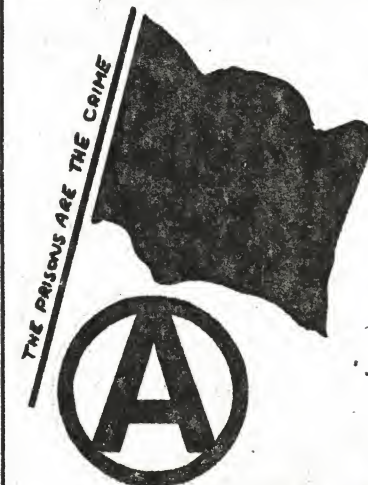


Also contact: ABC Collective,
7, Ballsbridge Road
Dublin, Eire.

(CAN BE NECESSARILY
CONNECTED WITH
MENTIONED GROUPS)



+
ANARCHIST WORKERS
ALLIANCE,
49A, LEISTER ROAD,
DUBLIN 6, EIRE



FIGHT BACK AND TAKE CONTROL

THE TORY GOVERNMENT plunges towards economic disaster. As always it is the working class who bear the brunt. Rising unemployment with increasing social deprivation. Growing frustration and stress. Worry over paying bills and H.P. instalments and where going out for a couple of pints is a treat and not a normality.

Thatcher tells us we must all tighten our belts. O.K. most people suffer from the economic crisis. But its the majority of people who suffer most - the working class.

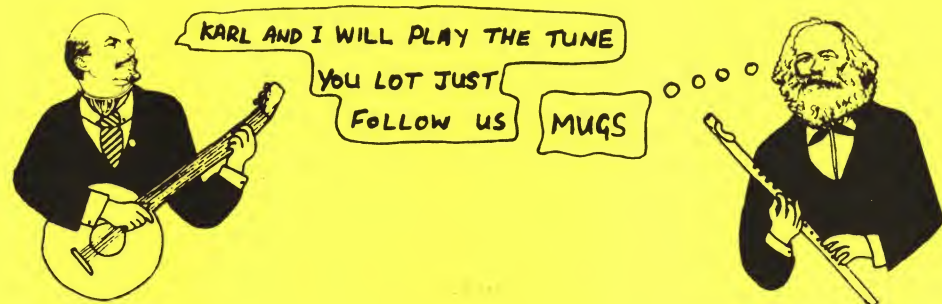
It's very easy to sit back and make the most of it. There's only four years to wait then they can be voted out. The working class must realise that a labour government is not their salvation. Labour still wholeheartedly support the interests of capitalism. Like the Tories their track record is blatantly anti-working class.

The Labour Party was set up in 1906 from its forerunner the Labour Representation Committee, set up by the T.U.C. in 1899. It gave the impression that it represented the interests of the working class.

A different picture emerges from its history. Since the war it has shared equally the spoils of office with the Tories. Most of its "socialist" claims have been nationalisation. The nationalisation of industries between 1945 and 1951 was not a socialist measure. It was a salvage operation undertaken by the Labour party on behalf of the bosses. In 1947 when the railways and coal industries were nationalised they were both rapidly losing money and the bosses were only too glad to sell to the government. This paved the way for "rationalisation" in which thousands of workers lost their jobs. So much for the Labour Party's claim to be the party of full employment! (incidentally, unemployment rose just as fast under Callaghan as under Thatcher).

Under Callaghan's last labour government the betrayals and sell outs continued. Remember the cuts in public spending, the social contract, rising unemployment; the backing of the bosses against the firemen, health service workers and lorry drivers. Handsome achievements for a party which defends working class interests! The labour party can only be likened to a rotting corpse wearing a socialist name tag.

Falling into the trap of the so-called revolutionary left is just as fatal. Don't be fooled by the marxists who want to take over "on behalf of" the workers. The philosophy of marxism is elitist, doctrinal and authoritarian.



The anarchist Michael Bakunin referring to the marxist state in 1873 said:
 "The leaders of the communist party, namely Mr. Marx and his followers, will proceed to liberate humanity in their own way. They will concentrate the reins of government in a strong hand. They will create a central bank and control all commercial, industrial, agricultural and even scientific production. The mass of people will be divided into two armies - industrial and agricultural - under the direct command of state engineers who will constitute a new privileged and political class." - not much of a prospect is it assuming Bakunin is right. In over a century he is yet to be proved wrong.

To rid ourselves of the evils of capitalism (war, poverty, poor housing, unemployment etc) the working class must reject all political parties born of the left and right. We must organise ourselves in the work place and community and federate with others in the same industry and locality. The state, capitalism and wage slavery must be abolished and replaced by self-managed production for need not profit. The means of production and distribution must be taken over by the workers themselves. We can do without the dictates of politicians, militarists, priests, trade union bureaucrats, bosses and the so-called experts.



As class struggle anarchists and advocates of the principles of anarcho-syndicalism, we believe that the Direct Action Movement offers an alternative for those who do not wish to be organised from above but nevertheless appreciate the need for organisation and action.

We have no central committee to tell us what to think and no gurus' to give us all the answers. We aim to grow by sharing our skills, resources and understanding. We ask people to work with us rather than submit to instructions. If you leave it to us, we are not going to change things. We will work as equals but won't lead anyone. It's up to all of us.

NATIONAL ADDRESS
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